

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

California GARDEN

10c

MY GARDEN

My garden is a modest spot;
A simple, grassy plot
Where rabbits play
And quail are unafraid.
Sweet myrtle too
And rosemary bloom
Melts with Scotland's broom
The bluebell guards
On every side the garden path
And the lilac wild.
Here the night wind woos
The jasmine flower
And stars are come.
When day is done

—Byrd Carter.

FALL ROSE SHOW

November 16, 17
San Diego Rose Society

NOVEMBER 1940

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A Novice Speaks on Natives

By KATHERINE V. LEWIS

Local experts have written many excellent articles for the **California Garden** on the subject of native plants, with suggestions for their choice and growth in gardens. Able specialists have delivered learned talks before our garden clubs and horticulturists have written comprehensive books containing wise council.

Theodore Payne is giving us advice on the planting of wild flower seeds; Miss Sessions for years talked and wrote of the cultivation of natives; and Mr. Guy Fleming has worked for the preservation and use of wild plants. Fine books by Lester Rowntree, Ralph Cornell, and Roland Hoyt have been published as guides to the layman in the native plant world as especially applied to California.

It now remains for the novice to report upon the progress made in putting some of these suggestions into practice.

How natural it is for us to become interested in plants when they are flaunting their colors. We want them in our gardens immediately and we deplore our lack of forethought in not planting them at the proper time. In the spring we thrill to the blue of the wild lilac and to the gold of the poppy, but in the fall when the native plants are drab and dormant we ignore and forget them while we coddle

our exotic darlings. Natives which are placed in their permanent places in the autumn will send their tap roots deep for moisture the first year.

Choosing a location for the wild garden is of as much importance as knowing when to plant. A location on sloping ground with good drainage and away from exotics is the ideal one. Here natives can adapt themselves to a small amount of water with no pampering. Few natives can long flourish when planted with cultivated shrubs. If they seem to do so in their infancy, existence may mean "a short life and a merry one." The location of a wild garden must not be too sophisticated. The usual city lot offers some spots where such plants may be grown and if your home is located near the wilds, such plantings are ideal to soften the boundaries and melt off into the natural growth.

The discussion of the Where and When must be followed by the consideration of the What, and it is this that stirs the interest of the real lover of plants. In deciding this I stall let my own experience on a La Jolla hillside determine my response.

In order that the planting may not look too forlorn and bedraggled in summer we will consider first some of the evergreen natives. Several varieties of *Prunus*, wild

cherry, as *Prunus illicifolia*, *P. caroliniana*, and *P. integrifolia* may form the evergreen setting for an attractive wild planting. These shrubs are fresh and green at all times, require little care and are useful for Christmas greens. The Toyon is also a most attractive shrub. It is most adaptable as it may be kept low and shrubby or may be trimmed to form a tree. By all means plant Toyons, *Heteromeles arbutifolia*, if not for your own enjoyment, then plant them for the birds.

Rhus laurina and *Rhus integrifolia* (lemon-ade berry) can be the back-bone of the wild planting if one can wait for their growth, or is fortunate in purchasing a lot where they have grown in nature's own way. The latter can be pruned to form a ground cover, as a shapely shrub, or as a most beautiful small tree, while the former makes a very large, open and handsome shrub. The birds love a little lemonade tree growing near the bird bath where they may sit to await their turn for another dip.

Fremontia and *Ceanothus* may furnish color for a wild planting—and such color! The gold of *Fremontia* and the blue of wild lilacs cannot be surpassed by the colors of the choicest hybrid blooms.

The *Fremontia*, which dislikes water and is longer lived when water is withheld, is not easy to establish. One plant growing with shrubs which were watered regularly very quickly reached perfection, then sickened and died, while

others with no summer water have flourished.

Some of the varieties of wild lilac to consider are: *Ceanothus arborea*, which makes a beautiful rounded tree; *C. cyaneus*, the deep blue Lakeside variety; *C. verrucosus*, the white variety which covers our Muirlands hills like a light snow in spring; *C. crassifolius*, a white variety with holly-like gray green leaves; and *Ceanothus impressus*, one of the choicest, a dwarf variety with tiny leaves, arching stems, and dainty bunches of blue flowers in spring. If you wish to explore at length there are fifty other varieties listed in Lester Rowntree's "Flowering Shrubs of California." *Ceanothus* with the varied shapes of bloom and color and the many forms of growth offers a vast field for the plant student.

The Matilija Poppy with its huge blossoms of white, crepe-like crinkled petals surrounding a butter ball center is a magnificent plant. It is easily established if the bottom is removed from the tin container in which it is purchased and the container sunk in the ground. The root system is not disturbed and the tin soon disintegrates. For clean growth and most abundant bloom, cut to the ground in the fall.

Include in this native garden *Cercocarpus betuloides* or Mountain Mahogany, whose queer, twisting, feathery blooms flickering in the sunlight prove an attraction when the shrub is planted toward the setting sun. This plant does not fear the hose.

Perennials to plant with the shrubs may be grown from seed. Some of these are: *Pentstemon cordifolius* with long, scarlet, drooping stems; *Pentstemon spectabilis*, with five foot stems of violet-blue tubes; and *Mimulus puniceus*, monkey-flower. These seeds germinate in about twenty days if planted in flats. The plants may be planted in cans until the root system is formed, then may be transplanted to their permanent places.

Wild flower seeds planted after the first rains in the fall give us real spring color. *Phacelia cam-*
(Continued on Page 8)

He Makes Stapelias Too

By NEFF K. BAKKERS

A rose by any other name was never spoken either literally or in a lighter vein of stapelias. Of all the foul, knock-em down odors one can't beat or even approach in distaste this one of their's. Should you not know the plant by name, look for the one with peculiar star-shaped flowers, the plant itself a low succulent with many little towers rising from the earth like multiple square and horny fingers.

Of course the terrible carrion smell like most other things in nature has a definite purpose and a reason for being. It's a sly little trick to fool the silly fly into believing that it has found a fine piece of spoiled meat upon which to deposit its eggs. These, then, upon hatching, will find convenient food immediately at hand, or rather, at their feet. However, nothing could be further from the truth. The eggs are laid in good faith, but faulty knowledge. There is no food there and the fly's good intentions like those of his more ambitious brethren have gang aglæ. If the ants don't gobble the eggs, they just hatch and die of inanition. But Nature, the crafty beggar, has succeeded in her design and this unutterable stapelia flower is fly-pollinated.

The most common member of this unique and far flung family of asclepiads is *Stapelia variagata* which has a much spotted and blotched star-shaped flower. It looks like a piece of embossed leather so far as coloring and texture are concerned. It is only one of a large number of species, all of which are strikingly, or should I say stinkingly, peculiar. The blossoms vary from pale yellow-green to deep, dark maroon in color and from one to fourteen inches in size. All are star-shaped and all might have come from Denmark when Hamlet's stepfather was there. Some are as bare as the palm of your hand and as expressive, while

others have a mass of surface hairs or wool varying from pure white to wine red.

They have one virtue which recommends itself to California gardens. They don't get big and usurp unto themselves the whole place. They spread somewhat, but are easily divided when too large. The largest species, grown in the sun, will not reach a height of more than ten inches while most of them average about four inches. This adapts them to pot culture and for use in crevices. So it might be said that they are ruly if unholy and as is so often the case, fascinating.

These plants come from Africa and I am sure some ancient witch doctor there cast upon them a spell that originated in all the wierdest things in his bag of tricks; toads, old bits of leather, dried and hairy scalps with bloody tears and other things too foul to mention. One sees traces of them all in these queer manifestations of plant life and seeing and knowing, one is strangely attracted.

There are some baby brothers, the huernias, built on a much smaller scale with more delicate and smaller flowers and plant bodies. There are also some respectable and very beautiful cousins such as the exquisite *Hoya carnosa*, commonly called waxvine. This plant graced the parlours of our great grandmothers and showed there the charming sprays of pink, plush stars. It is not common, but surely will never disappear from culture as it is too completely perfect in form and pattern to be allowed to become extinct. These must be grown in the shade in southern California, where they will flower profusely twice during a summer. They are odorless—one suspects they are too aristocratic and otherwise attractive to feel the need of perfume.

Another group of cousins are the ceropegias, also vines and not so

pretentious. Best known is the Rosary-vine, *Ceropegia woodii*, which is pendent rather than climbing, suitable for hanging baskets and as used against shaded walls. Their perfectly heart-shaped, marbled leaves are smooth and heavy of texture, evenly spaced opposite one another along the stem while little rough tubercles are attached like beads on the chain of a rosary. The flowers are inconspicuous, dark maroon and look like little old-fashioned lanterns. The casual observer would not notice their relationship to the foregoing as the flowers are not stellar or star-shaped, but the botanist recognizes this at once. The Society's good friends the Hermances have some excellent baskets of these plants in their lath houses and these instantly arrest the attention even among the beautiful plants to be found there.

To him who in the love of Nature holds communion with her visible forms, she speaks a various language.—Neff K. Bakkers.

Retention of Beauty

By ROLAND HOYT

There is little we carry with us from day to day and on into the years, evidence of a bank roll or the records of the tax assessor notwithstanding. Such substantial things have a habit of coming and going and even at best, I suspect, are liable to mute the fine appreciation of that intangible something, God-given to us all if we will only pause to see. Some call it beauty, others name it religion. Present day terms such as "security," "standard of living" are mouthed and even listened to seriously and it is forgotten—that painfully beautiful arrangement of dahlias, or the handshake of an old friend. Listen to Struthers Burt in *Scribblers in The Diary of a Dude Wrangler*.

"The remembrance of beauty, the beauty of a thing, or of personal relationships, or of a country, has always seemed to me the chief end of life. The present cannot be held; it slips through our grasping

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Bird Parade—The Linnet . . .

Little Redhead with a Cheery Song

By FRANK FORREST GANDER

No matter where your garden—on the seashore, on the mesa, in foothills or mountains, or on the desert edge, some time during each day you may be sure it will be visited by members of the ubiquitous clan of linnets. Perhaps they will stop to drink at a dripping hydrant, to bathe in the bird bath, or even just perch in a tree and chirp inquisitively while their sharp eyes assay the neighborhood, but most frequently they will stop to dine. Fruit ripening on garden trees, *Cotoneaster* bushes red with berries, marigolds and cosmos that are past their prime, sowthistles and other weeds that have grown tall in neglected corners, and dandelions dotting the lawns, all spread sumptuous banquets for the linnets. They await no formal invitations when the feast is spread.

These birds can be pleasant company so that sometimes we are happy to have them with us. The red-decked males make bright spots of color in our gardens, their songs are delightfully cheering and sprightly, and their appetites for weed seeds seem insatiable. This autumn, hundreds of them have been feasting on the seeds in a narrow strip of grass and weeds which extends between my acre and my neighbor's citrus grove. I give them my best wishes and hope they will "lick the platter clean." Every seed they eat helps in my battle against unwanted plant invaders. And they do not scatter seeds as do some birds, for with their stout, conical beaks, seeds are quickly husked and their kernels snipped into bits.

Not always do I welcome linnets to my yard as they can do much mischief. At times a flock will alight in a fruiting tree, each bird will pick out a peach, fig, or whatever the tree bears and begin to eat. After each has taken a bite or two, it often happens that something frightens them and up into the air

they go, only to drop back into another tree and repeat the performance. They join the cedar waxwings and bluebirds in feasting on *Cotoneaster* and *Photinia* berries, too, so that the bushes may be stripped bare by Christmas time. For years, a militant mockingbird kept such damage reduced to a minimum in my garden, but now I have a new garden, and a new and untried mockingbird. My new toyon bush has a fair crop developing, and I await with anxiety the time when the green of these berries turns to crimson. Will this mocker prove as ardent a watchdog as his kinsman? Soon I shall know.

Tiring of berries and seeds, linnets will resort to blue gums when they bloom and sip nectar from their flowers. With beaks too short to probe deep flowers, yet with an appetite for nectar like that of a hummingbird's, linnets find the shallow eucalyptus cups a boon and drink from them until their faces and throats are black with the sticky fluid. Many times have I had to look twice at such dirty scamps in order to recognize them.

When clean, the male linnet is quiet pretty with rose red head, throat, and upper breast, or in oldersters with the entire plumage suffused with rose. In captivity and occasionally in the wild, birds will be seen with yellow replacing the rose. The females are plain gray, much streaked, especially on the breast. The only other Southern California birds of sparrow size which have these colors and might therefore be confused with linnets are the California and Cassin Purple Finches. Careful observations of beak, shape, and color pattern are necessary to distinguish these two species from their commoner relative, but fortunately they are with us only in winter while linnets stay the year around.

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COMPLICATIONS and COMMENT

*Call this chitter, but not tattle—call it it gossip, call it prattle—
But whate'er may be its name, call it fun—
This garden game!*

LEUCOJUM VERNUM (Spring Snowflake)

This is one of the earliest and most attractive spring flowers. Growing from 6 to 8 inches high, they bear dainty, nodding flowers which are white tipped with green. They should be planted in early fall in a good light, well-drained soil in which they may be buried 2 inches deep, in masses or bold clumps, to be effective 4 inches apart, and then be left alone to bloom year after year. This was a favorite with K. O. Sessions.

NATIVES NOW

The simple beauty of the California wild flowers appeal to us all—when they are in bloom. At that time it is too late to do anything about it so far as our own gardens are concerned. This is a reminder for those who pledged themselves last spring to do something about it and are serious in their desire to clothe a bit of dry ground or fill out their canyons with sheer loveliness. These individualists preach of great things in a language understandable to all who will pause and reflect.

It would be too bad to have Frank Ganders acre in Lakeside overrun by the merely curious, but I'm sure true believers will be welcome there, and there they will find natives of tomorrow as well as of yesterday and today—the newly found, named of him and sometimes by the man who weaves his way so quietly and unobtrusively through our horticultural activities. Mr. Gander is in truth a ferret for digging out of the hills and valleys he loves, rare species and those of no name to study and classify and cultivate for us. Moreover, his connection with the botanical world means that much material comes his way for observation and there is much of it there to see and know before its time of usefulness.

Another source for the new in

natives is Theodore Payne. I have his booklet before me and am impressed with the new species now available, Ceanothus, Lupines, Godetias and poppies, especially one that intrigues, a California poppy, a prostrate perennial that will cover as much as two and more feet of space in the rock garden. What do you think of that? I wish Mr. Payne or someone would tell us how to grow lupines well. Is it soil reaction or special bacteria at the root or what is it we don't or do have? —R. S. H.

FOR WINTER FLOWERING

In the nursery we are apt to feel at times that no one ever wants anything to plant for himself except something he has seen in the other fellow's garden.

There are some grounds for that conclusion, but not as much as we think. The fact is that there are always a considerable number of discriminating gardeners looking for something new and different to plant, and unfortunately, they do not always find it.

To those people I would like to suggest that they try a *Correa pulchella*, commonly called Australian fuchsia. It is probably one of the most attractive and satisfactory small plants they might find in a long search.

The plant is of excellent habit, compact and small leaved, and enjoys a great deal of sunshine and not too much water. Good drainage is an essential. It puts on its big show in the winter, when it is covered with a most delightful small bell shaped flower of a lovely shell pink. Through the spring and summer it blooms intermittently.

Another good one, of equal interest for winter bloom, is *Reinwardtia indica*, known as winter-flax. This is particularly good in the foreground planting, being not more than two feet high, erect and compact. The flower is a very good

clear yellow, salver-shaped, about the size of a half dollar. A well grown plant will be a mass of bloom all through the winter, with sporadic summer flowering. Try it, especially if you are fond of yellow. It is in no sense difficult and should be better known. Give it a warm place with moisture and keep pinched back for form—cut to the ground to make brush. — Esther Clare Johnson.

PLANT AURA

Dr. E. D. McAlister tells us that growing plants emit a ghostly red light which shows how a natural heat control is working in the development of all living things.

Two scientists of the Smithsonian institute, Dr. E. D. McAlister and Dr. Jack Myers, has described a permanent luminescence in all growing plants which is invisible to human eyes, but can be studied through special filters they have developed which screen out the normal green color of plants.

The red glow of leaves and stems is due to the emission of heat during the process of which plants capture sunlight in the chlorophyll, or green coloring matter, combine the light energy with carbon dioxide from the air and hydrogen from water absorbed through the roots to generate the starches and sugars for growth. From this basic process man obtains his food, coal and oil.

However, not all of the energy from sunlight is utilized by the growing plant. It must re-radiate some of it back into the atmosphere as heat in order to prevent burning itself up.

Thus nature has provided a perfect thermostatic control of the process by which life on earth is maintained.

With their newly-devised filters and special apparatus, it has been found that growth of plants can be varied greatly by the amount of light they receive and that the plants react almost instantaneously to light changes.

The red fluorescence acts automatically with these changes in light intensity, they declared. When photosynthesis, or light absorption,

was increased rapidly the fluorescence increased immediately and when light was flashed suddenly on a plant which had been kept in the dark the red glow flamed in a sudden burst and increased to the necessary point of adjustment of light regulation.

This fluorescent phenomenon is an obscure but basic law of nature which is extremely complex and is far from being fully understood, but further studies may produce some practical applications for farmers and flower growers.

GARDENING WITHOUT SOIL

Widespread publicity has been given in the press and periodicals to the so-called new discovery of growing plants without soil. The San Diego Public Library has recently added a book by Alex Laurie "Soilless Culture" which analyzes without any sensational build-up the real status of growing plants with their roots in a solution containing the needed elements for development. The author is a professor of floriculture in Ohio State University and his main reason for writing the book was to present a fair picture of what these new methods mean to the commercial grower and the amateur. So many have been led to believe that any family could produce its own vegetables and flowers by merely installing a tank in the basement to supply the nutrition for plants and electric light to provide the needed light. Mr. Laurie points out that fundamentals of growth in soil are first in importance, because the practices involved are similar to soilless gardening. With this in mind he gives many up-to-date answers on plant nutrition and feeding problems that are of value to all gardeners. One of the most interesting chapters in the book is the analysis of what noticeable symptoms in plant growth show the lack of calcium, phosphorous, iron, etc. The foreword to the book is written by that well known authority on gardening F. F. Rockwell. Put this title on your "must list" the next time you visit the public library.—Margaret Follick.

Cleanings from the Magazines

By Ida Louise Bryant

GOLDEN GARDENS for October has an article on Chemiculture for the amateur by an erstwhile amateur. He makes it sound much less technical than we have feared, and less intricate than we could have hoped. One of the forms described for household use is merely a two-part container, something on the double boiler idea, perhaps, with the plants set in coarse sand in the upper part and the nutrient solution in the lower. A mushroom-shaped clay wick projects from the bottom of the upper container into the liquid beneath. This method seems especially convenient for window boxes; and it is reassuring to know that no elaborate formulae are required—merely a tablespoon to the gallon of water, of one of our most commonly used commercial fertilizers.

Now we're really getting somewhere. On first thought, chemiculture would seem to be a simple variation of hydroponics, but the fact that sand is used for planting may set it apart from the more highly specialized planting in water. Personally, we're not yet ready for this higher mathematics of gardening; we'll have to stay on the ground with our plants, and more elementary processes, for awhile longer.

In the same issue Lester Rowntree lists ground covers best in her Carmel section. First, NIEREMBERGIA RIVULARIS (also recommended by HOYT as "forming a closely-packed mat only a few inches through"). Just one additional touch now to have found the ultimate in ground-covers—have it generate its own slug-destroying gases! Species of THYMUS are mentioned (also detailed in HOYT); ACAENA GLAUCA, a lovely blue-green; and the prostrate variety of ARCOSTAPHYLOS or Manzanita is spoken of as the best shrubby ground cover for the Carmel area.

GARDEN GOSSIP, from Virginia, tells in the October magazine of the Red Rose Rent Festival at West Grove, Penn., in September, with many celebrated Eastern and Southern Rosarians and garden experts attending. The key event of the day was the ceremony of paying to a descendant of William Penn a red rose for rent of the Red Rose Inn property, such payment to be made annually according to the original deed. As 1940 marked the 200th anniversary of the Inn, double payment was made by the gentleman representing the company owning the land; two red roses, one each to two direct descendants of William Penn. The tradition is a lovely one, especially if the Rosarians and not the Chamber of Commerce carry it on.

In GARDENERS' CHRONICLE for October the author of "Autumnal Gems" gives high praise to ANEMONE JAPONICA. One sees it seldom out here, which is a pity; it can't be because it is a tricky subject, for occasional specimens belie that. In Hollywood last week we saw a clump of single white and silvery pink varieties, both single; magnificent stately blooms, with stems fully three and a half feet tall. The plants had been in the same spot for more than fifteen years, blooming freely with but little attention. "Hardy perennial" could honestly be applied here. Miss Sessions would have enjoyed the perfection of those chaste blooms—she loved single flowers of every type and variety.

BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS for November carries "Plants You Don't Have to Coddle." Three guesses as to what they are. "Bermuda grass?" we hear someone suggest, hopefully. No, it is succulents, that heterogeneous group that includes members of plant families as dissimilar as milkweeds, cinerarias and pineapples. Among the photographs that illustrate the article the starfish flower or Stapelia will be recognized as one of the striking succulent blooms brought to the October meeting of the Floral Association by Mrs. Neff

Bakkers. To succulent fanciers present, it was probably as familiar as aspidistra to a New Yorker; but to our unaccustomed eyes its beauty was almost unpleasantly weird, its perfume, likewise. What makes this article doubly interesting to San Diegans is because the growers whose story is told are the Walmsleys and their Soledad Gardens near Pacific Beach.

What Will Planting Your Grounds Cost? also in the above, tries to make the prospective home owner see that planting should be allowed for in the budget, with no more fudging or quibbling than one would raise over including the cost of the roof; that temporary planting is to be abhorred and that each individual shrub and tree should be selected with an eye to the ultimate effect. Do I hear moans of Peccavi, peccavi, all about me? We're so eager to have the bare, bare ground covered up that, left to our own devices, without a curbing hand on the bit such as a trained landscape man would provide, we run amuck among the floriferous catalogues and the gallon cans. And then, having given way to the sin of covetousness, we follow with the really heinous crime of pruning—page Mr. Eric Eastman! And the moral of that is: buy yourself an acre in the country, and let yourself go.

SUNSET for October has a good bulb-planting chart, something we amateurs can't have before us, in black and white, too often. It seems to us that there's a picture frame in the attic that would just take this one, and the lath house will be the spot for it. The little magazine is full of meaty articles for October gardeners. Be sure to look at the page of old favorite perennials . . . bloom for nine months of the year from a border of ten of them.

Do our readers remember that our exchange magazines are to be found in the southeast corner of the circulation room of the Main Library building? And that there are various strategic spots in the room where floral offerings would show up beautifully.—I. L. B.

Problems of the Soil

By R. R. McLEAN, County Agricultural Commissioner

Carnations

Q.—I have tried to slip carnations a number of times but without much success. Perhaps I don't take the cuttings from the right places or perhaps I try it at the wrong time. Will you kindly give me directions?—S. L. F.

A.—In the first place cuttings or "slips" should be taken from good strong, healthy plants. Although they should preferably be taken during December or January, perhaps, they can be made considerably later or up to the time hot weather comes in the late spring if proper care is used.

Cuttings may be taken either from the base of old plants or from along the flowering stems, appearing as young shoots springing from the axil of leaves. They should be short-jointed and stocky and from 3½ to 4 inches in length, with the lower leaves trimmed up from the cut for about an inch and a half. Sometimes the tips of the remaining leaves on the cuttings are trimmed off to reduce the amount of evaporating surface during the rooting process. Of course cuttings should not be allowed to wilt or dry out after they are taken from the parent plant until they are rooted.

If you wish to raise a few plants only, they can be readily rooted if placed in a well-drained sandy loam in the garden or they can be rooted in pots of the same material. Probably the best and safest method is to place the cuttings in a box about 6 inches deep, any length and width, bore holes in the bottom to insure drainage and place therein a couple of inches of coarse clean gravel. Water and pack firmly, then place over the gravel about 4 inches of sharp, clean sand. This also should be watered and packed firmly and the top surface made even and level.

Into the cutting box the cuttings should be placed in straight rows,

setting them an inch and a quarter deep and about one and a half inches apart in the row and the rows 2 to 2½ inches apart. After the cuttings are in, the sand should be firmed around them and a thorough irrigation given. Nothing further is to be done except to keep the cuttings shaded and moist, but not wet. Too much water, of course, will cause them to rot.

If conditions of moisture, shade and temperature have been favorable the cuttings should be rooted and ready to take out of the sand in 3 or 4 weeks. If well rooted they may be transplanted directly into the garden although much better plants will result if they are put into 2½ or 3-inch pots for about a month or 6 weeks before being placed in the open ground. A good potting soil can be made by using a good garden loam into which has been well mixed a small amount of bone meal. Water carefully from now on and move gradually into more light and sun. They can then be transplanted to the open ground or to larger pots if it is desired to keep them that way.

The young plants will tend to grow one tall flower shoot which should be pinched back in order to force side shoots and make strong, bushy plants.

Nut Grass

Q.—Two or three years ago I had some top soil from one of the river valleys put in my back yard. Now I have a nice stand of nut grass there over a space of about 20 by 30 feet. I have tried everything I know of, even sifting the earth to get out the nuts, but without much success. What treatment would you advise?—M. J.

A.—Chemical treatments are not completely successful in that it is very difficult to kill the nuts which contain the food supply. These nuts may be a foot or 18 inches, or in some cases even more, under

ground. Small patches such as yours may best be controlled or eradicated, probably, by one of two methods, smothering or cultivation.

To smother out a patch of nut grass first cut the grass off at or just under the surface of the ground. Then cover the entire patch with heavy tar or roofing paper, overlapping the edges of the strips. As it is necessary to shut out all light from the patch so covered, you will have to weight down the cover by shoveling earth along the edges and over the laps. If the paper is heavy enough and light does not reach underneath through the laps or around the edges the nut grass will surely be killed out although it will take some months.

The cultivation method employs the same principle, that is, preventing grass shoots from reaching the light. It is simply necessary to cut the grass shoots off under the surface of the ground, 2 or 3 inches underneath if possible, and repeat the operation every 10 days or so or often enough to prevent the shoots from reaching the light. When shoots reach the light they very quickly begin to manufacture food for the underground parts, so if they can be prevented from doing this the stored food supply finally becomes exhausted and the plants die.

Nut grass is very difficult to eradicate and considerable persistence will be necessary in order to get the best of it.

Loquats

Question: I grew two loquats by planting the seeds and they developed into fine, large trees, but have had very little fruit. A neighbor has a tree not as old as mine but it has lots of fruit on it. What can I do to make these trees bear?

S. P.

Answer: The trouble seems to be that, as a rule, seedling loquats are a long time coming into bearing and even then may bear only light crops of small fruit. If the trees in question are well grown and have a good framework, it would pay to bud or graft them over, using buds

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The Way of Wildflowers . . .

By THEODORE PAYNE

The wild flowers of California are unrivaled by those of any other state for beauty, color and romance.

These are the flowers the padres found when first they set foot on California soil. The flowers Nature herself, the first of all gardeners, placed here. Flowers from the fragrant chaparral belt, from the mountains, from the valleys, from

WILD FLOWERS

I think that God must love the flowers,

He makes them as He wills;
He makes a lot more than we need
And hides them in the hills.

Yes, in the hills they are hiding
As sweet as they can be,
Hiding far from the sight of man,
Where only God can see.

The gardener takes the flowers
And makes them rich and grand;
A sort of aristocracy,
I think you'll understand.
But the wild flowers, they are different,

In the desert wind they nod,
And look as only things can look
Fresh from the hands of God.

—Edson C. Harris.

the seacoast, all can be grown luxuriantly in your own garden.

We have brought these flowers out of their native habitats from all parts of the state; from foothills, from plains, from deserts, from mountains, from seashore. We have propagated and grown them so that you may enjoy them in your "own garden."

Many species are being grown successfully in the eastern states and many other parts of the world. You will be well repaid for the little care and time it is necessary to bestow upon them. They will beautify your grounds and will bring to your surroundings some of the lure and the romance of the Cali-

fornia of early days. Now is the time to get started.

For the annual species, first work up the surface of the ground and pulverize thoroughly. In small areas this can be done by spading and raking, or in large areas this can be done by plowing and harrowing. In cases where the seeds are to be sown on hillsides, where there is an existing growth of shrubs or chaparral, small spaces can be worked up quickly by the use of a potato hook. Sow the seed broadcast and it will germinate soon after the first rain following the sowing.

While the perennials grow in the wild state under the same conditions as the annuals, they do not reproduce themselves nearly as freely, being perennial there is not the need of it. With most species the best results will be obtained by sowing in seed boxes, using a light well prepared soil and keeping in a lath house or sheltered place until the seedlings are well started. Gradually harden off to the full sun and when large enough to handle, pot up into small pots; when the plants are thoroughly established, plant out into the open ground where they are to remain and flower.

The best time to sow the annual wild flowers is early in the fall before the first rain or during the early part of the rainy season. The seed will germinate soon after the first rain following the sowing and in seasons with a normal rainfall will require no further attention. Later sowings may be made up until the beginning of February, but these later sowings may not succeed quite as well as those sown in the fall and the blooming period, when natural rainfall is depended upon, will be shorter. Where artificial watering can be practiced, sowings can be made up until the early part of March.

The perennials can be sown at almost any time of the year, late

spring to early fall being a very good time. Most species if started at this time of the year will flower the following spring and summer.

The quantity of seed required to sow any given area is dependent upon the type of planting contemplated. If the area to be sown has existing growth of shrubbery and trees a good average is five pounds to each acre; if the area is clear, a good average would be eight pounds to the acre and, when used within the close confines of the garden, an ounce will sow from 150 to 200 square feet. These quantities will vary according to the extent of covering desired and the existing conditions. The average city lot of 50 by 150 feet requires about 1½ pounds or one pound to 5000 square feet. For those not used to sowing fine seed, it will be found advisable to mix it with some finely screened soil or sand. Then scatter as evenly as possible over the ground.—**Theodore Payne.**

The Linnet

(Continued from Page 3)

Linnetts make cup-shaped nests in densely foliated trees, bushes, and vines and often in crannies about houses and other buildings. It is this last mentioned habit which gives them the name of House Finch. Undoubtedly this is what they should be called, as "linnet" was preempted years ago by a bird of Europe. But since that name is so widely used in California, and since the two species are separated by an ocean and the better part of a great continent, perhaps the same name may be applied to both birds without much confusion arising.

ROSE HARVEST HEAVY

The harvest of roses in Turkey and the Balkins is heavy and millions of roses are being crushed at Karlovo, Turkey. The petals are made into rose water, and the bubbles of oil are skimmed off to produce the famous attar of roses. For one pound of oil 2000 pounds of red roses or 3000 pounds of white roses are required.—**S. D. Union.**

A Novice Speaks

(Continued from Page 2)

panularia gives a wonderful effect of clear blue; *Phacelia viscida*, *Gilia achilleifolia*, and *G. capitata*, are some of the charming blue-flowered annuals which will harmonize with California poppy, Cream Cups, and Blazing Star.

Garden Knowledge is usually acquired by the "trial and error method," but these Don'ts may make the path less rocky.

Don't buy pot bound natives or think that because they are natives that they can be established without watering the first year.

Don't move natives after they are established, or overwater them or cultivate them.

Don't think that wild flower seeds, because they come from the wilds, will germinate if scattered to the four winds, without preparing the ground. Carl Purdy, the veteran wild flower grower, says: "Broadcasting seeds among weeds and grass is a waste of time and seed, and I do not knowingly supply seeds to be sown in this manner. If you intend to plant that way better purchase elsewhere."

Don't be impatient and Don't hope to have a native garden look like an exotic one.

Don't, I beg of you, expect an amateur to be infallible.—**Katherine V. Lewis.**

Problems of the Soil

(Continued from Page 7)

or scions taken from trees of known merit. There are several varieties commonly grown in Southern California of outstanding merit such as Champagne, Advance, Thales, etc.

Chayotes

Question: I moved into a place this fall where a fine chayote was growing. It had lots of fruit but has now died down nearly to the ground. Not knowing anything about this plant I would like to inquire what treatment it should have this winter and if it may be ex-

pected to grow up again or will I have to plant another vine? Mrs. K.

Answer: The chayote only grows in warm weather, dying down in the late fall. Next spring it should throw out new shoots even stronger and more vigorous than this year's growth. No winter treatment is necessary other than fertilizing. The more the plant is fertilized, the more roots it will make and the stronger canes or shoots it will develop. Use the animal fertilizers from dairies or chicken runs and apply liberally.

October Meeting

The October meeting of the Floral Association was held at the Floral Building in Balboa Park on Tuesday, October 15.

Mrs. Greer reported progress in arrangements for the planting of the tree in memory of Miss Sessions.

Mr. Fred Ingram Jr., now of this

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city, told us a most interesting story about the perfume industry. He spent a year, before the World War, working and studying in the laboratories and factories at Grasse, in southern France. The story was illustrated with lantern slides, and brought out the natural advantages of location of Grasse, gathering of flowers and bringing them to the factories, and the various methods used for extracting their odors. He also explained the other agents that must be used in constructing and blending a commercial perfume.

—F. G. Jackson.

Retention of Beauty

(Continued from Page 3)

fingers, becomes immediately the past. The future may be neither beautiful nor worth remembering; certainly its beauty will be accompanied by ugliness and tragedy. But what has happened is ours and cannot be taken away from us; and the mind, like the gauze screen through which gold is run, transmutes in retrospect almost everything into loveliness. Remembrance is the one sure immortality we know."

A few years past I stood on the banks of a muddy stream from which, as a boy I took catfish. I still thrill to the marvel of tall iris scapes that came up over night in my mothers garden to test my youthful understanding. I remember glowingly calm gardens and their people. Now I too am beginning to see and am telling you that one of the sound satisfactions of maturity lies in the associations built up of the past. We live inwardly, in some degree at least, on past impressions and as Mr. Burt brings out, the memory of these happenings is almost bound to be pleasant, miraculously refined of the dross that must certainly have been present. Had I not gone back, the slick, glistening slime of the bank had been forgotten in the vivid living of a small boy. Some mystic power had glossed over the inevitable accumulata of the cow pasture then, where such things are distasteful in a later appraisal.

I like, and believe I understand this use of the word immortal. It means to me, that the exuberance of the small boy; the fine experience of youth; certain nebulous, but high aspirations dulled with time may be recaptured now, if I but will it. The beauty of a flower that reaches back to the first time I saw it, brings with it something of the breathless, pulsing being that is youth. If you question this or do not understand, rise early some morning to the odor of cypress under the warming mists of the night. Go into a garden of an evening when the moon shines. Seek there some old, well known foliage to crush and smell. Don't resist. Let it take you where it will.—Roland Hoyt.

EREMURUS

Known also as the "Foxtail Lily," "Desert-Candle," or "Giant Asphodel," they are with the exception of the variety *Himalaicus*, native of Turkestan.

As the method of reproduction is very slow, the roots are collected in the desert country of Turkestan, far from habitation, and carried by caravan to the nearest shipping center whence they are brought to the great nurseries in Holland where they are grown until acclimatized and exported to other countries.

Since the embargo they have been grown successfully in this country.

A well-grown clump of *eremuri* may justly be regarded an achievement to be proud of. The great flower stalk, often 8 feet tall and more, rises from a crowded tuft of long, narrow leaves, and is crowned by a flower spike 2 to 3 feet long, composed of closely set bell-shaped flowers, star-like in effect, in soft tones of rose, yellow, salmon, and white.

To fill the great bare space left when the plants go to rest, *gypsophilas* may be planted near and kept staked until the *eremuri* die down, when they may be allowed to fall forward in their place. These plants enjoy a rich soil with a mixture of sharp sand and well-drained sunny location. Cover top of root crown with 5 inches of soil. J.S.

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PHOENIX CANARIENSIS



The Canary-Island Palm is immense, and too bulky for a small lot. Grows 60 feet in height, and will spread its canopy out in width nearly that distance. It is not grown as much now as in the past, but is still well used where space is available and the scale of surrounding objects permits.

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